Prepaid Health Plan

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a new
health care program
offered by the

Illinois Department of Public Aid

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If you are a public aid recipient, you probably know about the medical coverage offered through the "green card" (medical eligibility card). Now the Illinois Department of Public Aid offers you a choice between the green card system and a new type of health care system known as

P H P

WHAT IS A PHP?

PHP means Prepaid Health Plan. It is available through a medical group known as a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). The Prepaid Health Plan is a program for medical care which tries hard to help you and your family stay healthy through *preventive* care. If you decide to join a Prepaid Health Plan, you will be encouraged to make regular visits to a physician at a health plan clinic. At the clinic complete medical records will be kept on each person who belongs to the PHP, so that they will get the best and most complete care possible from one location.

HOW DOES A PHP WORK?

The Prepaid Health Plan operates through a clinic with a staff of several physicians, including specialists and other professional persons such as nurses and laboratory technicians. When you and your family join a PHP, you will choose one of the physicians as your regular doctor. This is the doctor who will be most concerned with your health, and you will usually see him when you go to the clinic. If necessary, he will refer you to other specialists associated with the PHP.

Except in emergencies, you will be expected to go to the PHP clinic for all of your health care. Eye care services and laboratory tests are also available through the clinic, and your prescriptions will be filled there too. If it becomes necessary for you to enter a hospital, you will be admitted to one with which the clinic has an agreement.

IS THERE ANY COST TO YOU?

Like the green card plan, the health care you get through a Prepaid Health Plan is provided at no cost to you. When you join a PHP, you also receive free transportation to the clinic *when it is medically necessary.*

IS ENROLLMENT IN THE PREPAID HEALTH PLAN VOLUNTARY?

Yes. Most persons receiving assistance will have the opportunity to choose between the green card and the Prepaid Health Plan. If you become dissatisfied with the health care you receive through the PHP, you have the right to register a complaint. If you feel the complaint is not satisfied, you may withdraw and return to the green card plan.

The choice is entirely yours – either the green card or the Prepaid Health Plan. However, you cannot join a Prepaid Health Plan and the green card plan at the same time. You must choose one or the other.

WHAT ABOUT EMERGENCY HELP?

You will receive all of your health care from the PHP. Your regular physician at the clinic will have the time to give you personal care and you will not be rushed.

Regular appointments for routine clinic visits are made so you should not have to wait a long time before seeing your doctor. When an appointment can't be made, 24-hour emergency service is available through the PHP clinic and there will always be a doctor or nurse on duty whom you can call for advice. If necessary, arrangements will be made for you to enter a hospital where a doctor from the clinic will meet you.

If you want to learn more about the Prepaid Health Plan and how it differs from the "green card" plan, contact your Illinois Department of Public Aid office for information about the plans available in your area.

Illinois Department of Public Aid
Springfield, Illinois

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